

OUR SAVIOUR'S UCC

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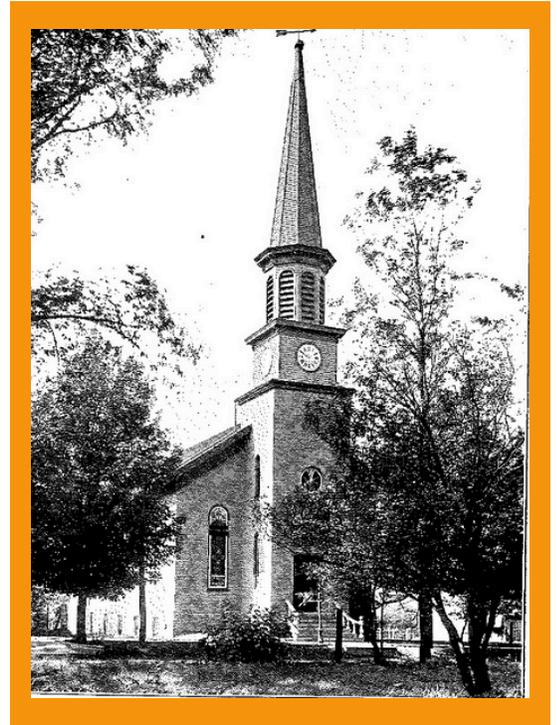


November

Welcome to The Messenger

Published by Our Saviour's UCC since 1924

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Join us for Worship In-Person, Virtually, or by Radio!

Worship Services are Thursday at 6:30 pm in the Chapel and Sunday at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary. Both services are Livestreamed to Facebook, YouTube, and our website. On Sunday at 10:50 am you can also tune in to 1600AM WRPN to listen to the radio broadcast of the 9:00 am worship service.

For those who worship through our online opportunities, if you live in the greater Ripon area and would like Rev. Mundell to come by in person to visit and bring you communion, please call our church office at 920-748-2544 to set up an appointment. He is very happy to do that for you!

Deadline for the December 2025 Edition of The Messenger:

Events to be included on the calendar, committee updates, articles, etc. should be submitted to the office by **November 15th** via email to the Church office, osuccripon1@gmail.com, or you may drop your information in the office, or submit it using the the QR code at the right and filling out the short form that is automatically sent directly to the office email. Thank you.

QR Code



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www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com



<https://bit.ly/OSUCCFacebook>



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From the Pastor's Desk



Rev. Dr. Kevin Mundell

I was asked the other day, "What is the hardest part of being a minister?" I hadn't thought about the question in a while. I immediately remembered times in the past where someone asked me this same questions and when I was younger would answer with things like, "preparing a sermon, which is like writing an eight page paper every week, and then standing in front of a group of people delivering it knowing some will love it, some will hate

it, some won't care, and some will simply daydream through it." Or telling people, "the hardest part is balancing the conflict as one member will be angry with me for something and complain to me with a far left perspective and then the next day a different member will be angry with me for the same thing and complain to me with a far right perspective both believe the whole church sees things the way they do. And I hold the tension knowing the two people have known each other for decades and ministered beside each other and probably do not even know they hold opposite views."

But now, these answers seem small. What I said to the person who asked me about the hardest part of ministry for me, was, "Saying goodbye to people I care about as they pass on from this life." It is amazing to get to know people and hear some of their stories that are important to them. It is hard sitting with them as their body begins to break, trapping their vibrant spirit inside. It is hard sitting with them when their mind begins to break, and they can no longer tell me any of the stories that used to make me smile and laugh. It is hard to watch as their body betrays them more and more, shrinking their world. It is hard to watch when cancer attacks or the heart weakens forcing major life changes or when they lose the ability to communicate clearly.

It is hard to have someone look you in the eyes and say, "I am tired, worn out, and don't want to be here anymore. There is no longer a point to my life. Why won't God take me home? I am ready to go. I so miss my (spouse)." For some they have children, grandchildren and even great grandchildren who visit them weekly, and for some reason it is not enough. For some they have no one, only the staff around them and it feels like we are sitting in a dark cave, just the two of us. For some they express where they are at with their family and for some, they only express it to me, and their yearnings become mine to bear with them. And it is hard holding my own grief in check so that I can be present and hopefully help the families get to a place where they can keep journeying forward with their grief.

I lost some amazing people this year that I have gotten to know--here are some of them, Jim Clausen, Norman Koplín, Gladys Wilkes, Lorraine Jess, Sandra Badtke, Marilyn Hageman, Ruby Brunet, Dave Hahn, Evelyn Thom. My grief is weighted.

I am starting to understand Jesus' crying before he raised Lazarus and crying over the city of Jerusalem. He has taught me that the pain of my grief, when I let myself feel it, is connected to my love for those whom I have lost and that love is Jesus' most amazing gift to me. God's love in the hard stuff is gracious and merciful.

God's Grace is Sufficient. Rev. Dr. Kevin Mundell

Committee News

Altar Guild

The 2025 sign-up book is available on the stand outside of the church office. This sign-up is for each of the sponsorships. Altar flowers are \$50 and Organ flowers are \$30 each. Radio Broadcasts are \$50 per sponsor & \$25 per sponsor per bulletin. All checks should be made out to OSUCC, with Altar Guild written on the memo line if you are sponsoring flowers, please. We no longer maintain a separate checking account.



Our next full meeting is Sunday, November 16th after the worship service. We invite anyone that would like to join Altar Guild to attend our meetings and learn more. If you have any questions about what Altar Guild does and the team approach we use, please feel free to contact Tammy Widlake at 920-517-1192 or Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367.

Called to Care *Committee*

If you don't have one yet, pick up a Prayer Square or as Nurse Emily to bring some along when she visits so you can choose one for yourself! These colorful, comforting hand-knit squares are made here at OSUCC.

Nurse Emily holds a Blood Pressure Clinic in her office that is open to all OSUCC members on the first Sunday of every month after the worship service. The next clinic is October 5th at 10:15 am.

She holds the walk-in "Mind, Body, & Soul Clinic" in her office every Thursday from 10:00 am until Noon if you would like to stop in for a blood pressure check, would like to review your medications, or discuss any other health-related concerns or questions you might have. If you would rather schedule a visit from Nurse Emily, please call her at 920-748-2544 during office hours or email her at osuccpnripon1@gmail.com.

The next Called to Care meeting will be held Thursday, November 13th, at 9:30 AM in the conference room.



Christian Education Committee

Our next committee meeting will be Monday, November 17th at 5:30 pm.

- **Adult Ed:** Sunday Adult Ed class meets from 10:30 am - 11:30 am, so do grab a coffee and treat beforehand.
- **Christian Ed Classes:** Sunday School classes meet from 10:15 am - 11:15 am.
- **Confirmation Class:** Confirmation class has begun, contact Rev. Mundell for more information.
- **Nursery:** We have a child/parent space available in the southwest corner of the West Narthex, adjacent to the back of the Sanctuary. There are restrooms nearby in the corridor leading to the Chapel that are outfitted with Koala Care changing stations for your convenience.

More Committee News

Evangelism Committee

We need still photos for the Church Directory, please! Currently we have 79 out of 206 member profiles (a profile is defined as a family or an individual). You can submit a non-copyrighted photo to the church office via email or drop it off, OR you can contact the office and set up a time for our volunteer photographers to take photos for you.



The current issue of *The Upper Room* is available in the East Narthex, the North Narthex, and in front of the church office. There is no charge for this wonderful publication so please do take advantage of using it. There is a large print size and a small size available.

Our next meeting will be Monday, November 17th, at 6:30 PM and we welcome new committee members!



Mission Committee

Missions Committee will meet Tuesday, November 18th, at 5:30 pm. This is a very active committee so if you are interested in joining us, we would be happy to welcome you!

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox - Last call for Shoebox items! We are collecting anything on full list of items. The list is on the nurse bulletin board across from the church office and the collection box for items is in the East Narthex. Have fun with this and thank you! We'll also have the shoeboxes out for those that want to fill their own, please have them back by no later than November 19th.

This year we will be hosting a shoebox packing party where, as a church, we get together to fill the shoeboxes before the National Collection week of November 17-24th. We'll have the date available shortly, so watch the weekly worship bulletins. We are accepting monetary donations to help cover the shipping for the boxes and also to supplement items collected as needed.

Harvest Ingathering is Sunday, November 23rd. This is a special day to bring in pantry staples that will be shared to Ripon Area Food Pantry and the Community Food Pantry at Traded Treasures.

Traded Treasures is doing Thanksgiving Meal Bags again this month. Last year they provided bags to 177 families in our community, and are estimating the need this year at 200 families. The cost will be \$50 per family/bag.

We can help by donating \$50 for a bag or splitting the cost of a bag with a friend and each donate \$25. We will have special donation envelopes out shortly. Whatever you can do does help and is appreciated!

Worship Committee

Our search for a new Choir Director is ongoing and we have a post on Facebook that you can share. If you hear of someone who may be interested, please contact Barb Stracy at 920-229-1183.



The next meeting of the Worship Committee will be on Monday, November 17th, at 4:00 PM. Anyone interested in joining the committee is very welcome to attend.

Ministries, Projects, and News

Matthew 25: Ministries Pill Bottle Collection

7,188 Pill Bottles in 2025!

Thank you for all your donations! We are so grateful for the steady donation of pill bottles of every type and size. Let's keep them multiplying in the closet like bunnies!

We are also grateful to several ladies here at OSUCC who volunteer their time to sort and pack the shipping boxes that we send out. Thank you, and you know who you are!

OSUCC is one of the last collection points in the area so this project is very important for helping keep the bottles out of landfills. We send them to Matthew 25: Ministries in Blue Ash, OH who ships the bottles to developing countries who need assistance in the improvement of available medical care and supplies.



Please continue dropping off pill bottles (with prescription labels removed) to the church office. If the office is closed, feel free to leave them in the brown plastic basket located on the table in the North Entrance vestibule. Thank you so much!

Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

54,393 Pop Tabs in 2025!



Tab can come from a variety of cans such as pet food, beverage cans, soup cans, tuna cans, etc. We appreciate all of those who have already donated their tabs, or are still working on their collection jar at home! We understand that even friends of friends have begun collecting and donating too, how exciting! Thank you all so very much!

The tabs collected are sent to Ronald McDonald House, who recycles them and uses the proceeds to help fund the general operations expense of the House--keeping it open to serve even more families. It's a win-win situation!

Prayer Chain Ministry

In our Prayers: Jim Badtke, Sharri Dailey, Tara Koller, Emily McGuire, Mark Sabel, Barb Schultz, Joe Wrzinski, and 16 Unspoken.

Feel free to add yourself or a loved one to our prayer chain ministry by contacting Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367.



Scott Street Puppets

Please note we will not have our regular Monday, 6:15 pm practice on November 24th. Enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday and week!

More Ministries, Projects, and News

The Ripon Free Community Meals



As expected, October was a very busy month for the kitchen and all those who help support those efforts. The October 7th meal was very well attended with 130 meals served. Everyone really enjoyed the Brakebush chicken tenders, commenting on how crispy yet juicy they were!

For our November 4th meal we'll be stirring up a big batch of chili in honor of the colder temperatures outside. We'll serve Chicken Salad sandwiches and a warm fruit salad too. This will be a Bakers Choice month for our talented bakers and it will be exciting to see what they come up with. Will it be cake, pie, cupcakes, cookie bars, and will they use pumpkin, apples, cherries, pecans, the ever popular chocolate....so many options! How will anyone choose just one dessert from the table at the meal?!!

These Sharing Table Free Community Meals are open to everyone in the community and all are welcome. Please help spread the word in the community so we can reach those new to the community or those who may not be aware of this valuable ministry being offered by five of our churches here in Ripon.

We could not do these meals without all of you who support this ministry by helping with prep, cooking, serving, cleaning, baking, etc. and we feel so blessed by the gift of your time and efforts! A sincere thank you to you all!

Turkey Dinner

By the time you read this newsletter, we will have made it through all of the preparations and the actual event itself. What we don't know right now is how the attendance was and what the bottom line for the proceeds is. Check back next month and we'll have that information to share with you.

What we do know right now is how very thankful and grateful we are to all of you who helped in so many ways to make this event happen for our church. You are all simply amazing, wonderful people, thank you so very much!

Quotes of the Month

Do you have a favorite quote that is helpful to you in times of joy, sorrow, and the everything in between that life throws at us? Let the office know by emailing it to osuccripon1@gmail.com and we'll be happy to share it in the next newsletter! Here's a few to get the ball rolling...

"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." — Eleanor Roosevelt

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." — Albert Einstein

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less." — C.S. Lewis

"If you are going through hell, keep on going." — Winston Churchill

"You can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time." — Abraham Lincoln



From Our Parish Nurse

November is COPD Awareness Month, a time used to spread the word about COPD and chronic lung disease awareness, prevention, and treatment.

What is COPD?

COPD, also known as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, is a term used to describe chronic lung diseases, that include emphysema and chronic bronchitis. In 2021, COPD was the 6th leading cause of death in the United States. Millions of people remain undiagnosed and are unaware that they have the disease. And although COPD is incurable, early diagnosis and treatment can reduce lung damage and improve quality of life for those living with the disease.

What causes COPD?

Most cases of COPD are caused by inhaling pollutants. That includes tobacco smoking and secondhand smoke, along with fumes, chemicals, and dust that can be found in many work environments and even at home. Smoking is the number one cause of COPD in the United States. Genetics can also play a role in someone developing COPD, even if the person has never smoked or been exposed to harmful lung irritants in the workplace. A disease called Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency is known to cause COPD. People with this disease have a lower-than-normal level of a blood protein that protects the lungs from irritation. Since this is a genetic disorder, it is passed from parents to their children. A simple blood test can check for this disorder, which is important because there is a specific treatment for alpha-1 to slow the progression of COPD.

How is COPD diagnosed?

COPD is usually diagnosed through lung function testing like spirometry. A spirometry test is a simple, painless test that shows how well your lungs are working by having you blow all the air out of your lungs into a machine. The machine then calculates two numbers that show how severely the airways are blocked, which allows your doctor to diagnose and determine the severity of your condition. In addition, your doctor may order chest imaging to get a more complete picture of how your lungs are functioning. All of this will help determine the best course of treatment for your disease.

Who should get tested?

If you are a current or former smoker, if you have been exposed to harmful lung irritants for a long period of time, if you have history of COPD in your family such as Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency related COPD, or if you have any of the following symptoms: chronic coughing with or without mucus production, wheezing, shortness of breath, tightness in chest, or unusual tiredness, you should ask your doctor to be tested for COPD.

For more information about COPD, or to utilize their free risk screener please visit

<https://www.copdfoundation.org/Take-Action/Get-Involved/COPD-Awareness-Month.aspx>

Emily Burk, RN, OSUCC Parish Nurse

November



Duties

Liturgist

- Nov 2 Rick Stracy
- Nov 9 Cal Fischer
- Nov 16 Rorie Nitz
- Nov 23 Dianne Heyn
- Nov 30 Kelly Mundell

Gatekeepers

- Nov 2 Tom & Julie Stellmacher
- Nov 9 Rick & Barb Stracy
- Nov 16 Emily & Dennis Burk, Sue Wrzinski
- Nov 23 Pat Gittens
- Nov 30 Keith & Becky Mulder

Audio/Visual Operators

- Nov 2 Kelly Mundell, Phil Wepner
- Nov 9 Bob Meyer, Kelly Mundell
- Nov 16 Keith Mulder, Kelly Mundell
- Nov 23 John Kwiatkoske, Kelly Mundell
- Nov 30 Bob Meyer, Phil Wepner

Coffee Hour

Everyone is welcome! Come enjoy coffee, juice, and baked goods after the 9:00 AM Worship Service.

Interested in hosting coffee hour? The signup book is on the counter by the microwave in the East Narthex.

Usher/Greeters

- Nov 2 Team 2
- Nov 9 Team 3
- Nov 16 Team 4
- Nov 23 Team 5
- Nov 30 Team 6

Altar Guild Monthly Committee

Iona Altnau, Bev Garro, Judy Lueck, Marge Mundt, Patti Schaalma

Van Drivers

- Nov 2 Tom Stellmacher
- Nov 9 Rick Stracy
- Nov 16 Jackie Bogucke
- Nov 23 Tom Carr
- Nov 30 Bob Lueck

Call Church Office by 12PM Thursday before the following Sunday to reserve a seat!

Communion Servers

- Nov 2 Bob Lueck, Rick Stracy

Worship Bulletins

Bulletins are mailed out on Wednesday's and are also available in the North Narthex for pickup.

November 2025

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
							1
2	9:00 am Worship Service with Communion 10:00 am Blood Pressure Clinic 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	3 6:15 Puppet Practice	4 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, OSUCC 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Meeting	5	6 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir Practice 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	7	8
9	9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	10 1:00 Science Club 6:15 Puppet Practice 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	11 5:00 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, Grace Lutheran 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Meeting	12	13 9:00 am MBS Clinic 9:30 am Called to Care 5:15 pm Sr Choir Practice 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	14	15 November Messenger Deadline
16	9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	17 4:00 pm Worship Mtg 5:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg 6:15 Puppet Practice 6:30 pm Evangelism Mtg	18 5:30 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, Immanuel UMC 5:30 pm Missions Mtg 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Meeting	19	20 9:00 am MBS Clinic 5:15 pm Sr Choir Practice 6:30 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	21	22
23	9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse	24	25 5:30 pm Sharing Table Community Meal, 1st Congregational 6:30 pm Pack 3735 Den Meeting	26	27 No Worship Service 	28	29
30	9:00 am Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 10:30 Adult Education 6:30 pm Lego Multiverse						